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Climate Active Neighbourhoods

Newsletter N°7

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“Empowering Neighbourhoods for Local Climate Action” - Final Conference

On 11 April 2019 the Final Conference of the “Climate Active Neighbourhoods” (CAN) project was successfully hosted by the City of Arnhem, NL and organised by Climate Alliance, a European municipal network.

96 participants representing project partners, municipalities, non-profit organisations, regional authorities, energy agencies and cooperatives, housing associations, consultancies, policy and science participated in the conference.

A fruitful exchange of ideas and perspectives on neighbourhood climate action was fostered during a keynote speech, a podium discussion, a thematic marketplace, two workshops and three site-visits.

The main thematic focus of the day was set on how to empower the neighbourhood level and residents to become a stronger and more active part of local climate action. During the three year project period of CAN a versatile range of bottom-up solutions was developed - from encouraging residents to take action on energy efficiency and energy poverty to financial support tools to new ways of cooperation.

Inspired by the keynote speech of Prof Genus of Kingston University, who provided a social science perspective on neighbourhood climate action and bottom-up participation models, the day was set in the right mood to share perspectives and experiences among the speakers, project partners and participants.

Municipalities need to listen to the needs of the residents and become equal allies. A change of role towards becoming facilitators is a key element for successful neighbourhood climate action.

Peer-to-peer learning between individuals, initiatives and municipalities can lead the way into long-term and sustainable local climate strategies. Everyone is part of the climate and energy transition process - therefore we need to translate the steps of transition into specific and focussed actions. Overall, a range of successful bottom-up approaches were presented by the project partners, which was appreciated by all participants.

Find the conference report and presentations of the conference day on the [CAN website](#).



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Climate Active Neighbourhoods - A Marketplace of Best Practices

During the final conference “Empowering Neighbourhoods for Climate Action” the project partners showcased their activities in at five interactive stations.

The cities of Brest and Plymouth presented their take on fighting “Energy Poverty” at the neighbourhood level and insisted on the careful approach, which is necessary to adopt when interacting with people affected by it, as it is a highly sensitive topic. However the results in both cities call for more funding for this approach, as it reaches further than just energy, but also positively impacts health and well-being.



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EPAMSA and Optivo presented their methods to carry out “Energy Retrofits”. EPAMSA introduced Energy Performance Contracts, a socio-financial tool leading to retrofits with a guaranteed reduced level of energy consumption. Behavioural change of residents is thus being fostered. Optivo presented its work on energy poverty reduction and improved energy efficiency in Hastings, which includes investments in retrofits and a behaviour change programme. It required a high level of manpower but led to important improvements in comfort and a reduction of energy bills in the targeted social housing.

Energise Sussex Coast and the City of Essen made the participants experience what “Community Shared Responsibility” means through an interactive role play. It provided an overview of the variety of actors involved in climate action processes. Especially the

benefits of successful bottom-up climate action were showcased.



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Coming to “Facilitation and Providing Services”, Liège Energie and Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz shared the tools and structure they utilize in order to answer the needs of residents as efficiently as possible. Given the wide set of measures implemented, a matrix was used to cluster them according to attractiveness and feasibility.

At the station “Engaging Residents for Change”, Worms presented their Energy Caravan, a free energy advice offer for house owners while Climate Alliance showcased the transition tours it’s been leading, giving visibility to climate-friendly initiatives and shops that also improve life quality in neighbourhoods. In Arnhem, the local fund allowing residents in targeted neighbourhoods to decide for themselves what they want to focus on and improve has been a huge success, from which both the municipality and the residents learned a great deal.



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Learning from one Another: Partner Visit in Arnhem by City of Essen & Energise Sussex Coast

In March, a delegation of 17 people from Essen (DE) and Hastings (UK) visited the city of Arnhem (NL) as part of the Communities of Practice approach. The delegation – made of English and German city employees, representatives of local environmental initiatives as well as some multipliers - met with Dutch neighbourhood and environmental initiatives.

The goal was to get suggestions for cooperation between citizen initiatives and the community as well as new project ideas. Above all, the question was how to enable neighbourhoods to contribute to their ideas and values? What has proven particularly effective in Arnhem? How did the initiatives find each other and network?



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The first meeting took place at DAZO 125, a common room for entrepreneurs and the neighbourhood. The Arnhem Approach, which focuses on developing cooperation and partnerships for climate active neighbourhoods, was presented. Through this approach, various initiatives in the Speijkerkwartier were empowered: DeBlauweWijkEconomie, initiatives such as buurtgroenbedrijf, DBWE, Spijkerbed, Spijkerzwam, GroeneRijders and the platform Arnhem Klimaatbestendig. In the afternoon, a walk through the neighbourhood

was an opportunity to look at a few places where actions were implemented.

The next day the delegation visited another shared location for Halte2030, Energieloket and Energiecooperatie Rijn IJssel. There, the initiators Duurzaam Craneveer and Hoogkamp Energie were introduced. From there a bike ride to the western part of the city was undertaken to see various projects.

The exchange gave insights into topics like roof greening and street modifications, all initiated by citizens facing similar challenges and values. It is worth mentioning that citizens are actively trying to contribute to the natural gas phase-out, an aim set by the Dutch government that Arnhem is strategically pursuing.

The goals of the initiatives in Arnhem really bear close resemblance to the goals of Essen's initiatives and district managers. For that reason, neighbourhood managers can imagine going back to Arnhem for support if similar challenges occur in Essen.

The twining showed the participants – once again – that a common vision and realistic intermediate goals is needed for both climate change mitigation as well as neighbourhood work. However more time for informal and individual exchange on particular challenges the citizens are facing will be planned in future visits. Finally, this Community of Practice experience reminded the participants that climate protection can connect people, visions and values – regardless of generations.

For more information contact [Hans van Ammers](#) or [Erik van Cuijk](#) of the City of Arnhem.

Partners in the Spotlight: Établissement Public d'Aménagement du Mantois Seine Aval (EPAMSA)

EPAMSA is the collective urban management authority for Seine Aval territory, in the east of Paris. It manages operations of national interest (such as urban renovation & European programmes), and acts as a site developer and investor in redevelopment when it comes to economic activities.

For years, EPAMSA has been leading the urban renovation plan of the Val Fourré neighbourhood in the city of Mantes-la-Jolie (FR). It manages the implementation of a participatory approach known as "Energy Performance Contracts", for co-owners to undertake renovation work of their building.

Why are you participating in CAN?

EPAMSA implemented three Energy Performance Contracts, in three different co-owned buildings in a deprived neighbourhood. The idea is to empower co-owners to lead thermal rehabilitation work and upgrade the building to current standards.

EPAMSA chose an innovative approach: it became a contact point between institutions carrying out the works and flat owners in the targeted buildings, making it easier to provide support to both sides.

Dealing with those projects for years, EPAMSA can provide a feedback of its experience and

help orienting the various experimentations set up within CAN. The approaches tested in the frame of the project also helped EPAMSA to improve its own actions.

How are you tackling the problems?

The Energy Performance Contracts met the challenge of energy insecurity in the Val Fourré neighbourhood. In that area, the median income is 1815€/month but considerable differences among owners exist, and the average bill for co-property charges is of 266€/month. Those are substantial costs for a disadvantaged population.

The rehabilitation work for the first Energy Performance Contract was finished last year and the second work will be completed in June 2019. The first Energy Performance Contract is a success, its energy savings evaluation meets the expectations: the 40 co-owners save 53% on their heating costs. For the 92 residents it's a guaranteed saving of 59 % on heating consumption compared to their current consumption. The works will start in 2020 for the third Energy Performance Contract.

The success of the Energy Performance Contracts results from a long-term partnership between EPAMSA, union councils, co-owners and institutional partners.

How to engage residents on climate issues is an important point for EPAMSA. As such an engagement guide was produced, to look at what key themes will be of interest to residents to motivate them to take action.

What are your key activities?

For a 15-year period, the Energy Performance Contracts commit co-properties and companies. EPAMSA aims to support monitoring of the contracts' proper implementation and their eventual renegotiation. In order to make people aware of thermal rehabilitation works and energy consumption, EPAMSA will also accompany its activities with a communication campaign. Moreover, as a member of union



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councils, EPAMSA has generated momentum and encouraged membership and confidence from the co-ownerships.

How can other organisations/municipalities benefit from your experiences?

For thermal rehabilitation of buildings, the Energy Performance Contract is an innovative tool advocating for bottom-up processes. More than allowing substantial energy savings, Energy Performance Contracts highlight properties' assets and improve inhabitants' comfort and quality of life.

EPAMSA's membership of union councils has led to a good knowledge of stakeholders

involved in co-ownerships; members of union councils, owners who are involved or in need to be. That knowledge is a key success factor for co-owners' support to the project and for the facilitation of their investment. EPAMSA has worked for years to build that momentum and it is able to provide a knowledgeable feedback to other organisations.

For more information on EPAMSA, click [here](#).



Practice Cube - A Tool to Inspire YOUR Neighbourhood Climate Action

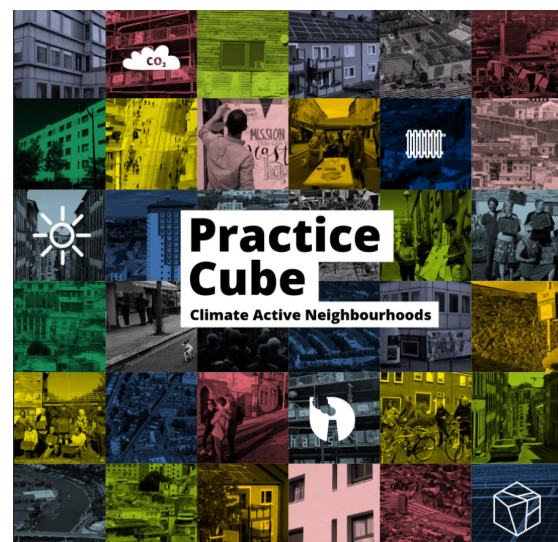
The Practice Cube offers a look into the experiences made over three years by the partners of the Interreg NWE funded project "Climate Active Neighbourhoods". The multi-national consortium based in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK has closely collaborated on methods and solutions for realising a low carbon future, increased energy efficiency and a socially just energy transition on the neighbourhood level.

The Practice Cube is a collection of best practices and is targeted towards municipalities, who are looking for successful climate action solutions. The best practices are divided into three categories:

- "New Ways of Cooperation" showcases the importance of rethinking the municipalities' role towards facilitation and bottom-up cooperation on the local level in direct contact with the residents & neighbourhood initiatives.
- "Engaging Residents for Change" displays methods of engagement and of fostering intrinsic motivation by positive communication.

- "Support & Financial Tools" focusses on offering residents and neighbourhood initiatives the support they need, starting from personalised advice services up to the creation of new financial tools on the neighbourhood level.

Have a look [here](#) and get inspired!



News

Project Extended for Six Months

The CAN project has been extended until April 2020. This provides the opportunity to implement further activities in the CAN neighbourhoods. Especially the topic of Energy Poverty will be addressed within the extension period. The urgency to act on energy poverty has become clear to the partners due to the exchange of perspectives among the international consortium.

Now Available: Brochure "Climate Active Neighbourhoods"

The final brochure of CAN provides a look into the experiences and practices of the partnership of five Northwest-European countries and showcases the main messages of the project's results. The brochure is available in three languages (ENG, DE, FR).

To learn more go to the [CAN website](#).

Project Facts

The Partners

- Climate Alliance (Lead Partner)
- Optivo with Hastings Borough Council and Energise Sussex Coast
- City of Arnhem
- Brest métropole with Brest Energie
- Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz
- City of Essen
- Liège Energie with City of Liège
- Plymouth City Council
- EPAM Seine-Aval with Mantes-la-Jolie
- City of Worms

[Read more](#)

Contact

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Upcoming Events

CAN at EUSEW'19 Energy Fair

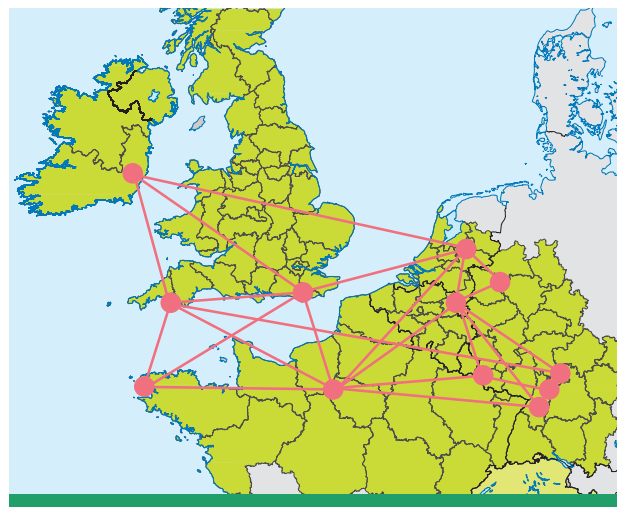
- 20 June 2019 in Brussels (Belgium)
Stand "Energy Efficiency as a Tool to Tackle Energy Poverty and Social Issues",
09:00 - 12:30 at the Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 175, 1000 Brussels

Climate Alliance International Conference '19

- 25-27 September 2019 in Rostock (Germany)
[Climate.Cities.Communities - Strategies for a Liveable Future](#)

Regional Representation of CAN

- **Conference Klima-Kommunal 2019**
18 September 2019 in Frankfurt (Germany)
Workshop "Klimaschutz im Quartier - Bottom-up-Ansätze europäischer Städte"
- **Zukunftsforum Energiewende 2019**
20-21 November 2019 in Kassel (Germany)



The transnational partner network of CAN

Duration

February 2016 to April 2020

€ 7.8 million total project budget
€ 4.7 million funded via ERDF